

**Minutes - King County Rural Forest Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2015, Preston Community Center**

Commissioners present: Nate Veranth, forest landowner (Chair), Bernie McKinney, forest landowner (Vice Chair); Dick Ryon, North Bend resident; Rex Thompson, forester; Doug McClelland, Washington DNR; Sandy Miller, forest landowner; Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe; Brandy Reed, King Conservation District

Guests: Gil Bortleson; Monica Paulson-Priebe; Grady Steere, Hancock Forest Management

King County Staff: David Kimmett, Parks and Recreation; Kathy Creahan, Water and Land Resources Division; Ivan Miller, Office of Policy, Strategy and Budget (PSB); Karen Wolf, PSB; Linda Vane, Commission Liaison

Chair Nate Veranth called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Motions

Motion 1- 0515 That the minutes of the March 13, 2015 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff and Agency Reports and Announcements

King Conservation District (KCD) – Dick Ryon, a KCD Board member, reported that the KCD is moving forward with its Forest Stewardship Program, which will support both urban and rural residents and jurisdictions. Dick said that while the KCD is known for assisting private landowners, they will be working with the cities on public natural resources such as street trees as well. He observed that cities have natural resource management problems that KCD can help them address. Brandy Reed added that the KCD is in the process of hiring a WSU Extension position to do additional coached forest stewardship planning courses in King County.

Sandy Miller thanked the KCD for offering the forest stewardship course in south King County.

King County Forestry Program – Linda Vane reported that on May 7, the Forestry Program co-sponsored a Firewise Leadership Conference with Eastside Fire and Rescue and the Carnation-Duvall Citizen Corps Council in Carnation. In addition to the lively group discussions and many personal contacts made, the rural residents in attendance made plans to follow up by creating a Facebook page, put together grant writing workshop, and involve Ham radio operators in Firewise. Kathy Creahan added that Congress had reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools Act, which provides funds to support Firewise training, outreach and technical assistance in King County.

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Doug McClelland reported on the [Snoqualmie Valley Recreation Plan](#). It's targeted on trails in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie, Raging River, and provides access to Mt. Si for recreation. It includes all 53,000 acres between I-90 Exit 17 at Issaquah and Exit 38 east of North Bend, and all the community connections in between.

Doug announced that DNR has partnered with the City of North Bend and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to establish a weekend shuttle service for hikers from the parking lot across the street from the courthouse in North Bend to Mt Si, Little Si and Teneriffe. The shuttle leaves every 15 minutes. The \$5 shuttle service will provide an alternative for hikers looking for parking in an area where parking is in short supply. For DNR this approach provides an alternative to building more parking lots.

King County Comprehensive Plan Update 2016

Ivan Miller, Comprehensive Planning Manager, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)
Karen Wolf, Senior Policy Analyst, PSB

Ivan Miller provided an introduction to the King County Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) update process and discussed with the Commission the Scope of Work topical areas that were most of interest to the Commission members. There was an extensive discussion of the factors that could be taken into consideration when evaluating policies designed to allow forestry to continue as a viable industry and to protect the Forest Production District from conversion to other land uses.

The Commission will continue to be involved in the Comprehensive Plan update process, according to Ivan and Karen. In early November a Final Draft will be released for review and comment by the general public.

Public Comment

- Regarding public acquisitions such as the Four-to-One Program: If there could be some way to match dollar value of land with the state of the ecology on the property, it would give landowners an incentive to give up more of the better lands for public acquisition. A rapid assessment of factors such as invasive species, unstable slopes and road access could be accomplished with GIS.
- Proposals for moving the Urban Growth Boundary should undergo rigorous review, taking into account factors such as geology, critical areas, proximity to hazard areas and impact on nearby properties.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 9, 2015, at the Preston Community Center.

Staff Liaison: Linda Vane, at 206-477-4842 or linda.vane@kingcounty.gov